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AD/BGI: [REDACTED] mc/2845(29 Aug 73) STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Cartography Division

SUBJECT : Proposed Issuance of Facsimile Copies of
Atlas of the People's Republic of China

REFERENCE : Your memo dated 28 August, same subject

1. I can't work up great enthusiasm for this proposal, for the following reasons:

a. O&I has, as I understand it, all the copies it needs and the Atlas is available, if expensively, to anybody else in the Agency who wants the original. I don't think we need to spend upwards of \$3,000 to assure that Agency obligations to the Community are accommodated.

b. So far as Geography Division is concerned, the Atlas has value more as a source of transliteration of current names than as an atlas per se. A 2X enlargement of each sheet, transliterated, is the way GD is using it, and this was the use the Red Guard Atlas was put to.

c. It is entirely possible that, in the current state of US - PRC relations, an English-language version of the Atlas will be forthcoming from the Chinese themselves. Even if not, the unavailability of the Red Guard Atlas should not guide our approach to the currently available October 1972 atlas.

2. Since we now have a diplomatic representative in Peking, I suggest you ask ^{the} The Geographer of the Department of State request the Peking Embassy to inquire whether the State Publishing House does plan an English-language atlas for its American friends. Then we will have a better basis for a "go" or "no-go" on this idea.

STATINTL [REDACTED]

Acting Director

Basic and Geographic Intelligence